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REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated June 15, 2006. Claims 1 to 46 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 12, 23, 33 and 40 being in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment accorded Applicants' representative during the September 6, 2006 telephonic interview.

During the interview, the Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed the art of record, particularly U.S. Patent No. 5,978,560 (Tan). Applicants' representative argued that Tan is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the claimed feature that a determination of whether to reproduce reproduction data is based on whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria for selecting the reproduction data, wherein the selection criteria is included within a rule set.

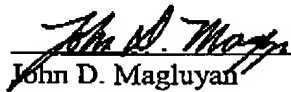
Applicants' representative argued that column 3, lines 46 to 64 of Tan is seen to look to the status of printers (e.g., characteristics and capabilities of the printers) when associating print jobs with actual printers. However, nothing in Tan is seen to disclose that a determination is made for whether to reproduce reproduction data, muchless that such a determination is based on whether the reproduction data satisfies selection criteria included within a rule set.

The Examiner tentatively agreed to withdraw the outstanding § 102(e) rejection¹ (see Footnote 1) in response to this filing, and such action is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


John D. Magluyan
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,867

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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¹/Claims 1 to 7, 11 to 18, 22 to 28, 32 to 36, 39 to 43 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Tan.